

Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

For purposes of this policy, a serious mental illness is defined as a condition of a person whose emotional or behavioral functioning is so impaired as to interfere with his/her capacity to remain in the community without supportive treatment. The mental impairment is severe and persistent and may result in a limitation of functional capacities for the primary activities of daily living, homemaking, self-care, employment or recreation. The mental impairment may limit the ability to seek or receive local, state or federal assistance such as housing, medical and dental care, rehabilitation services, income assistance and food stamps or protective services. Although persons with a primary diagnosis of mental retardation frequently have similar problems or limitations, they are not to be included in this definition unless, in addition to mental retardation, they have a separate and distinct qualifying SMI diagnosis.